Availability of steel and coking coal

2723. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special efforts taken or proposed to be taken by Government for increasing availability of steel and coking coal in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that any high power committee has submitted any report for boosting the availability of coking coal for the steel companies;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by the committee; and

(d) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) As per the National Steel Policy entrepreneurs in the country are free to set up steel plants and downstream units of the capacities of their choice based on their commercial judgments. In a free market economy, Government acts only as a facilitator. The Government has taken several steps to increase the production of steel such as modernization and expansion of public sector steel plants and adoption of various policy measures to encourage creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector. Various companies are on the look out for strategic alliances for ensuring raw material (coking coal, iron ore) supplies, according to their corporate strategies.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Committee under the chairmanship of Director (Fin.), RINL has submitted a Report for securing coking coal supplies for SAIL and RINL. The Boards of these companies are yet to take a view on the proposals contained in the Report, and if Government approvals are required, these would be formally processed after the companies take *s* view on the recommendation of the Committee.